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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think that having MS interjected into the schools as a part of their reparations is madness. Schools are one of the few places that other operating systems have an opportunity to gain momentum and exposure. MS would happily PAY to have this happen... Not to mention the fact that it will hurt MS's competitors.

I think that's an important part of any settlement plan: It should in NO way hurt MS competitors. It should force MS to make reparations to the other companies in the industry on the order of magnitude of the damage it has caused.

Some things to consider would be having reparations paid to all the companies whose software could not be sold because MS was forcing them out of business by charging nothing. The services/companies that immediately spring to mind are Real Networks, Netscape, Yahoo, Mapquest, Nullsoft, AOL (AIM), ICQ, Sony and Nintendo. In addition, I think that MS should be open to lawsuits due to damages from their software. I don't for the life of me understand how, in every other field of law, it's not possible to sign one's rights away, except in software.

If I buy a car, the mfg can't enforce a contract saying I will not sue for damages due to a defective product, and yet, somehow, MS depends on this protection every moment to stop people from suing for damages related to the innumerable security holes and flaws.

MS needs to be seriously shaken and changed. This settlement does NOTHING to bring that to being, and possibly takes steps backwards.

Thanks,
Thomas McElroy